

"SECOND SPACE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS"

The Galileo Mission: Earth Encounters Update

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The Galileo mission to Jupiter was launched in October 18 of 1989 by the space Shuttle. The mission will utilize a VEEGA trajectory which will entail two close encounters with the Earth, in December 1990 and 1991. The VEEGA trajectory or Venus-Earth-Earth-Gravity-Assist provides the most effective way to arrive to Jupiter in 1995. Galileo's Earth science observation planning started on February of 1990 for these encounters. An overview will be presented of the latest results acquired by the Galileo mission of both Earth/Moon fly-bys.

The Galileo's scientific payload consists of 12 instruments covering wavelengths from the ultraviolet to the infrared. This scientific payload represents a unique opportunity to observe the Earth simultaneously with a suite of instruments never observed before.